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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

May 12, 1954

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ACTION

DEPT

SUBJECT: Foreign Minister Bech's Views on Kirsten Committee

Mr. Bech advised me today that it would be impossible for the Luxembourg Government to allow the Kirsten Committee to conduct "Hearings" in Luxembourg. He said the reason for this is the extremely tense and unpleasant and ever-present situation that exists here in Luxembourg because many of its soldiers are still being held prisoners behind the Iron Curtain.

Mr. Bech is constantly accused by some of the parents, who are "half-crazed with worry, heartbreak and desperation", of doing nothing to secure the return of these missing boys. Unlike most countries, Luxembourg is so small that the majority of these families live in the immediate city and frequently see Mr. Bech on the street, at church and on other occasions, as well as "frequently calling on him at his office to harangue him.

The Grand Duchess, as have heads of other states, has written the Russian Government requesting that these boys be returned, but the communication has never been acknowledged.

Mr. Bech says that if he were to allow these investigations to be held here, these parents would then accuse him of further "aggravating" the Russian Government and thus forever preventing any possibility of the return of these boys.

State Dept. review completed

Wiley T. Buchanan, Jr.,
American Minister.

WTBuchanan/i1

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